

Barrington Visioning Session 1 – Kickoff

Barrington Middle School

November 15, 2021

Critical/Hot Button Issues

- Limited open athletic space (3)
- Affordable 75+ housing (3)
- Sea rise /coastal erosion
- Lack of businesses in town
- Walkability / bikeability (2)
- Schools
- Taxes (2)
- Density
- Outdated power grid
- Community inclusiveness (3)

Strengths

- Strong town balance sheets
- Engaged / active community
- Schools
- Coastline / beaches
- Bike path
- Child friendly (4)
- Welcoming community (1)
- Small town feel (2)
- Proximity to Providence and other areas
- Quiet residential family neighborhood (commercial high-density use would be tough) (11)

Challenges

- Limited open space (1)
- Lack of senior housing (5)
- How can we create healthy places for kids?
- Taxes
- Limited housing stock
- Lack of community recreational facilities (4)
- See rise / coastal erosion (6)
- Need to define town's role in development process (3)

- Need to understand financial limits (2)
- What is [the town's] involvement afterwards (1)
- Differing opinions in the community
- Access to beach [requires] off-site improvements
- Beachgoers leave trash
- NIMBY [Not In My Back Yard]
- "Land locked"
- Narrow road [- what are the] traffic impacts? (2)
- Meeting expectations of different constituents (1)
- Limited appetite for affordable housing

Opportunities

- Improve aesthetics [of an] ugly building
- Bring folks together on common goals (2)
- Affordable senior housing (6)
- Affordable housing not [just] for seniors (6)
- Open space / green space (1)
- Educational facility partnership with local university
- Balance community needs with environmental impacts (8)
- Community Center (1)
- Lots of children, no good place for teens to hang out
- Zion [is] going to be more residential - how does that impact this project? Two competing uses will destroy the market

- Cemetery Commission could review site
- Creative ways to reduce energy
- What's the town's most pressing need (2)
- If building with Barrington Bricks, [could] reuse [the bricks]. or stained glass [from chapel]?
- Access for public to site (4)
- Look at trends in housing
- Poppasquash Point - specify building materials
- View corridor should be preserved (1)

- Reuses existing structure
 - [There are] Strong community feelings
 - balance those feelings with logistics.
 - Do not want a repeat of Zion Institute (3)
 - [This] was a community institution
 - Preserve Chapel only?
- Creates affordable senior housing (3)
- Preserves open space (12)
- Development compatible with neighborhood character (5)

Goals

- Identify best use (2)
- Build consensus / reflect community input (4)
- Create housing open space education opportunities (2)
- Balance community need with financial impact - does the town want to break even? What does financial impact mean? Incentives? (5)
- Create asset that improves town for the long term (7)
- Meet the needs of seniors
- Diversity equity inclusion (2)
- Public access (4)
- Preserve access to ocean (3)
- Balanced traffic impact with public use (2)

Stakeholders

- Immediate abutters
- RISD
- Nayatt Rd residents
- Barrington Land Trust
- Senior Center
- Affordable housing rental residence
- Cemetery Commission
- Barrington Village (senior group)
- School committee

Success Factors

- Outcomes meet expectations (3)
- Buy-in from abutters and stakeholders (9)
- Addressing needs of community (2)
- Financial feasibility (2)
- Considers neighborhood values (1)